

The Principles of

War

Mass
Mass the effects of overwhelming combat power at the decisive place and time.

Offensive

Seize, retain, and exploit the initiative.

Surprise

Strike the enemy at a time or place or in a manner for which he is unprepared.

Simplicity

Prepare clear, uncomplicated plans and concise orders to ensure thorough understanding.

Maneuver

Place the enemy in a position of disadvantage through the flexible application of combat power.

Objective

Direct every military operation toward a clearly defined, decisive, and attainable objective.

Unity of Command

For every objective, seek unity of command and unity of effort.

Security

Never permit the enemy to acquire unexpected advantage.

Economy of Force

Employ all combat power available in the most effective way possible, allocate minimum essential